

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 18978 112328Z

64

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 RSR-01 /058 W

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R 111541Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS PARIS 18978

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS ETRN FR SZ

SUBJECT CIVAIR SWISS CHARTER AIRLINE ORDERS AIRBUS

1. PRESS REPORTS AIRBUS INDUSTRIE ANNOUNCED JULY 9 THAT SWISS CHARTER AIRLINE SATA HAD ORDERED ONE AIRBUS, MODEL B-4 (345 PASSENGER CAPACITY), DELIVERY IN 1975. IN MEANTIME, SATA WILL LEASE B-2 MODEL AIRBUS (305 PASSENGER CAPACITY) WHICH IT WILL PLACE IN SERVICE IN JULY 1974. WITH SATA ORDER 17 AIRBUS HAVE NOW BEEN SOLD WITH OPTIONS OUTSTANDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL 22 AIRCRAFT. (AFP REPORTS SATA IS SMALL GENEVA-BASED AIRLINE WHOSE CURRENT FLEET COMPRISES FOUR CARAVELLES). NO PARTICULARS YET AVAILABLE RE FINANCING.

2. COMMENT: WHILE SALE OF ONE AIRCRAFT MAY BE RELATIVELY SMALL PICKINGS, IT IS GOOD NEWS TO DEPRESSED FRENCH AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY AND NOTABLY TO AEROSPATIALE, WHOSE HENRI ZIEGLER HEADS AIRBUS INDUSTRIE AND IN WHOSE TOULOUSE PLANT MULTINATIONAL AIRBUS IS ASSEMBLED. AEROSPATIALE HAD BEEN GOING THROUGH STAGNANT PERIOD WITH NO NEW ORDERS FOR CONCORDE OR AIRBUS. EVEN AEROSPATIALE'S RECENT TOUTING OF ORDERS PLACED FOR ITS NEW EXECUTIVE JET CORVETTE WAS DEFLATED BY L'EXPRESS, WHICH POINTED OUT THAT ORDERS CAME FROM COMPANY HEADED BY ZIEGLER'S SON (AIR ALPES) AND FROM U.S. JOINT VENTURE OF WHICH AEROSPATIALE ITSELF IS A PARTNER. IRWIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PARIS18978
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730740/aaaabdkb.tel
Line Count: 60
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15-Jan-2002 by phillir0>; APPROVED <15-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR SWISS CHARTER AIRLINE ORDERS AIRBUS
TAGS: ETRN, FR, SZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005